

In light of the Examiner's continued rejection with respect to Sassi et al. and Hoffman et al., the Applicant offers the following further amendments and remarks, which the Applicant believes place the application in condition for allowance. The Examiner should note that the amendments contained herein assume that the Applicant's amendments of January 28, 2002 have been entered, as requested above.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 11 and 12, and beginning on page 11, line 26 and ending at the end of page 12 with the following:

In addition to the nonresorbable reversible gel composed of a linear random copolymer of N-isopropyl [meth-]acrylamide and [meth-]acrylic acid described in this invention, a biodegradable (resorbable) copolymer exhibiting similar gelation properties is obtained by grafting of the oligo [meth-]acrylamide derivative side chains on a biodegradable polymer of, e.g., polyaminoacids, poly(phosphasenes), poly(caprolactone), polypeptides, polysaccharides and combinations thereof. As described above, in order to form a gel, a sufficient number of oligo [meth-]acrylamide derivative side chains must be included in the resulting biodegradable graft copolymers such that the bioactivity of the biological molecules of the backbone is not preserved and therefore the graft copolymers as described do not include polymer/protein bioconjugates. Preferred oligo [meth-] acrylamide derivative side chains include N-alkyl substituted [meth-]acrylamide derivatives, linear random copolymer of [meth-]acrylamide derivative and hydrophylic comonomer, and combinations thereof. Techniques of grafting of oligo-N-isopropyl[meth]acrylamide side chains on a nonbiodegradable pH-sensitive homopolymer are described (Chen and Hoffman). The technique(s) of Chen and Hoffman were used herein to graft the oligo-N-isopropyl[meth]acrylamide side chains on an alternative biodegradable polymers such as polyaminoacids, poly(phosphasenes), poly(caprolactone),